WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition comprising a cross-linked gelatin and a sufficient amount of wetting agent to permit uniform wetting of the gelatin in the presence of an aqueous solution.

2. The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is impregnated with the gelatin prior to foaming of the gelatin.

3. The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 2, wherein the wetting agent is mixed with the gelatin prior to foaming.

4. The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin of Claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is coated over the surface of the gelatin.

5. A method for decreasing the hydration time of a hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition which method comprises, prior to hydration of said cross-linked gelatin composition, incorporating a biocompatible wetting agent with said cross-linked gelatin.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said incorporation is achieved by mixing the wetting agent with the gelatin prior to foaming.

7. The method of Claim ~~5,~~ wherein said incorporation is achieved by impregnating the gelatin with the wetting agent prior to foaming.

8. The method of Claim 5, wherein said incorporation is achieved by coating the wetting agent over the surface of the gelatin.

9. The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition is bioadsorbable.

10. The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, further comprising one or more compositions selected from the group consisting of growth factors, thrombus enhancing agents, and antimicrobial agents.

11. The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claims 2 or 3, wherein the wetting agent comprises 0.1 to 10 weight percent of the gelatin.

12. The method of Claim 8, wherein the coating is achieved by applying to the surface of the gelatin by a solution consisting of a liquid solvent and the wetting agent, wherein the concentration of the wetting agent in the solution is from 1 to 20 percent of the solution.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the liquid solvent is evaporated from the surface of the gelatin.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the concentration of the wetting agent, after evaporation of the liquid solvent, is from 0.01 to 5 weight percent of the gelatin composition.

15. The biocompatible, hemostatic sponge of Claim 1, wherein the sponge is sterilized and packaged for use in surgical procedures.

16. A kit of parts for preparing a biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition comprising a syringe and a non-hydrated pledget, said pledget consisting of cross-linked gelatin and wetting agent.